

Ingelside  
West end of Gibson Ave.  
Lexington, Kentucky  
Fayette Co

HABS No. KY-57

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PHOTOGRAPHS  
WRITTEN HISTORICAL AND DESCRIPTIVE DATA  
District of Kentucky

HISTORIC AMERICAN BUILDINGS SURVEY  
CENTRAL UNIT — ST. LOUIS

Historic American Buildings Survey  
E. T. Hutchings, District Officer  
1708 Heyburn Building, Louisville, Ky.

## INGELSIDE

West end of Gibson Ave., Lexington, Kentucky.

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Historical Data

Year of erection: "For more than 10 years the work went on, until in 1852 the house was completed at a cost of twenty-nine thousand dollars...."

Built for (first owner): Joseph Bruen

Architect or designer: John McMurtry

Built by: "In the great kiln on the back of the place bricks were fired; timber was cut from the woodland for the heavy walnut doors and interior woodwork; stone was quarried nearby for the walls of the seven foot cellar under the entire house, while the window sills, cornices and spires were fashioned of iron in the Bruen foundry."

Original intended use: Residence

Notable events and occupants:

"(Joseph) Bruen, who had come to Kentucky from New Jersey, had amassed a considerable fortune through his brass and iron foundry and his woolen mill. In connection with Thomas Harris Barlow he built the steam engine used in Edward West's boat, and on an oval track on the third floor of the foundry he and Barlowe operated a miniature engine that pulled a passenger car large enough to carry one grown person and two children."

"Several years after the Civil War Ingelside was purchased by Col. J. Watts Kearny, son of General Phil Kearny, an officer in the Union Army, and he built at the entrance the picturesque lodge gate..... Col. Kearny's trotters became well known on the Grand Circuit, and during his regime a splendid race track was built on the place. After the removal of the Kearnys to Louisville the place was owned for a brief period by a family of Moores from Kansas City, later becoming the Drake School for Boys, and the home for a short time of the Alexander Headleys and the William Bury Kinkeads....."

In 1879 Ingelside became the property of Miss Lily Dunster Duncan and her sister, Mrs. Hart Gibson, wife of Col. Gibson. He and his five brothers had fought in the Confederate army, and the greater part of their property had been confiscated by the Federal government. At Ingelside,

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Col. Gibson entertained such men of letters as John Fox, Jr., James Lane Allen, Robert Burns Wilson and Theodore Roosevelt, and from Col. Gibson, Roosevelt obtained much of his material for "The Winning of the West." Only recently the house passed out of the family, being purchased by Eldon Dummit, member of the Lexington bar.

Reference: Bluegrass Houses and Their Traditions, by Elizabeth M. Simpson, with an introduction by Wm. H. Townsend. Illus. (Lexington, Ky., 1932.) pp. 195-201.

Prepared by Ida B. Guild August 30, 1940.  
Historic American Buildings Survey,  
Central Unit, St. Louis, Mo.

Approved: \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_  
District Officer

BW 5/19/41